

Informing All Voters about the Accessible Voting System

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Current Practice Affecting Access to Private and Independent Ballot in San Francisco

- San Francisco poll workers are NOT trained to let voters know about the Accessible Voting System UNLESS
 - The voter has a readily visible disability
 - OR
 - The voter requests the accessible voting system

San Francisco currently provides
all voters with paper ballots.

Many Individuals Have Non-Visible Disabilities

Such as:

- Vision loss**
- Mobility/dexterity (i.e. Arthritis or Neurological Disorder)**
- Learning Disabilities**
- Intellectual or developmental disabilities**

Benefit of Letting All Voters Know about the System

- Helps voters such as seniors, who may be unaware of their disability. Such as, hearing or vision loss.

Benefits (continued):

- Will Help Ensure the Accessible Voting System is Plugged in and Operational:
- Often times poll workers neglect to set up the Accessible Voting System until someone who needs it shows up and requests it.
- By offering the system to everyone, poll workers will understand the need to have the system fully functional.

Compare and Contrast: Butte County

- ONLY 172 voters utilized the Accessible Voting System in the November 8, 2016 election in San Francisco
- While Butte County, which offers the Accessible Voting System to every voter, 7,256 voters used it in the same election.
- Butte County has a population of only 224,214*

*Based on 2014 Census

-Recent state law will make “remote accessible vote-by-mail” systems available, which would enable some voters with disabilities to vote using a vote-by-mail ballot privately and independently.

Proposed Resolution

- San Francisco Elections Commission adopts a Formal Policy that supports all voters being informed of the opportunities available to them to vote using accessible ballots or voting equipment, including when voting by mail.